CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South Sacramento, CA 95825-8202



PAUL D. THAYER, Executive Officer California Relay Service From TDD Phone 1-800-735-2922 from Voice Phone 1-800-735-2929

> Contact Phone: (916) 574-1890 Contact FAX: (916) 574-1885

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

CSLC EIR No.: 745

Project: AT&T Asia America Gateway Project (AAG)

CSLC Ref Files: W26237; R31106

SCH#: 2007111029

Date:

November 7, 2007

To:

Interested Parties

Project:

AT&T proposes to install and maintain one fiber optic cable with self-contained power on the continental shelf. It would land at AT&T's existing landing facility in the Montana De Oro Sand Spit Parking Lot near Morro Bay, California. The cable would be connected to the AT&T 03 cable station located in San Luis Obispo. The marine cable would be installed using a combination of plowing and direct bottom lay along a predetermined course. The proposed cable would provide a link between the west coast of the United States and Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Guam, and Hawaii. It would be the first direct submarine cable linking Asia with the United States and would provide an alternate route around the Pacific "ring of fire". This would increase network resiliency and ameliorate the effects of a natural disaster potentially breaking numerous cables in a discrete geographic region. Attachment 1 (page 1) provides more project details.

Applicant:

AT&T Corporation

3D151F, 1 AT&T Way

Bedminster, New Jersey 07921

Location:

The proposed fiber optic cable is divided into three segments: terrestrial

shore-end and marine.

The terrestrial segment consists of an existing conduit and manhole system extending from the "beach manhole" at the Montana De Oro Sand Spit Parking Lot inland a distance of approximately 10.5 miles to the AT&T 03 cable station. Once this conduit system exits the Montana De Oro State Park, it exists entirely within private AT&T easements with the exception of two road crossings (Pecho Valley Road and Clark's Gap Road). This terrestrial route is commonly referred to as the "ridge" conduit system.

The shore-end segment includes an existing "beach manhole" and one existing five-inch drill pipe extending from the "beach manhole" at the Montana De Oro Sand Spit Parking Lot seaward a distance of approximately 2,200 feet from the mean high tide. From there, the cable would extend through the tidal zone, to a point where the water depth reaches approximately 98 feet.

The marine segment begins at the 98 foot water depth and consists of one submarine cable placed along a predetermined route to its destinations in Hawaii, Guam and Asia.

This project description does not consider the project beyond the 1,000 fathom (6,000 foot depth), which occurs approximately 50 miles offshore.

Purpose of Public Scoping Process:

The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) will be the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project.

The purpose of this Notice of Preparation / Notice of Public Scoping Meeting is to obtain agency and the public's views as to the scope and content of the environmental information and analysis, including the significant environmental issues, reasonable range of alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be included in the draft EIR. Applicable agencies will need to use the EIR when considering related permits or other approvals for the Project.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, written comments must be sent by **Thursday**, **December 6**, **2007**. Please send your comments at the earliest possible date to:

Scott McFarlin, Environmental Scientist
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825
FAX: (916) 574-2274 E-mail: mcfarls@slc.ca.gov

NOTE: You are encouraged to submit electronic copies of your comments in Microsoft Word format. If comments are faxed or sent by e-mail, please also mail a copy to ensure that a clean copy is received by this office.

Pursuant to Section 15083, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, the CSLC will also conduct two public scoping meetings for the proposed Project to receive oral or written testimony at the times and places listed below:

DATE:

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

TIME:

Afternoon meeting at 3:00 PM

Evening Meeting at 5:30 PM

LOCATION: Sands Suites

Conference Room 1930 Monterey Street

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

(805) 544-0500

If you have any questions or would like a copy of this Notice and Attachment 1, please contact Scott McFarlin at the above address, by phone (916) 574-1310, or e-mail at mcfarls@slc.ca.gov. Copies of this Notice will also be available at the public scoping meetings and on the CSLC web page: www.slc.ca.gov (under "Project Updates").

Date: November 7, 2007

Signature:

Scott McEarlin

Environmental Scientist